
**Introduced by Senator Corbett
(Principal coauthor: Senator Alquist)**

March 20, 2012

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 77—Relative to California Earthquake Preparedness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 77, as introduced, Corbett. California Earthquake Preparedness Month.

This bill would declare the month of April 2012 as California Earthquake Preparedness Month, and would urge all Californians to engage in activities related to earthquake preparedness during the month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In California, on average, there are 37,300
2 earthquakes that are recorded and analyzed per year, amounting
3 to over 100 earthquakes per day; and
4 WHEREAS, There are 15,000 fault lines that lay across
5 California, with the San Andreas and the Hayward Faults being
6 significantly active fault zones; and
7 WHEREAS, California has the most damaging earthquakes of
8 any state in the United States; and
9 WHEREAS, California is known to be one of two states that
10 record the most earthquakes in the United States, and
11 WHEREAS, Of the 15 largest earthquakes documented in the
12 continental United States, eight have occurred in California; and
13 WHEREAS, The majority of Californians live within 20 miles
14 of a major earthquake fault; and

1 WHEREAS, There is a probability of more than 99 percent that
2 in the next 30 years Californians will experience one or more
3 magnitude 6.7 or greater quakes, potentially capable of causing
4 extensive damage and loss of life; and

5 WHEREAS, The United States Geological Survey estimates
6 that there is a 62 percent chance that a major earthquake will strike
7 the Bay Area within the next 30 years; and

8 WHEREAS, The Federal Emergency Management Agency
9 estimates, on average, that the annual capital losses due to
10 earthquakes are \$4,400,000,000 and of that total, \$3,300,000,000
11 of those losses occur in California alone; and

12 WHEREAS, The danger posed by earthquakes to people is not
13 solely isolated to land, but also from the oceans in the form of
14 tsunamis; and

15 WHEREAS, Tsunamis have hit the west coast on numerous
16 occasions, including the 1946 Aleutian tsunami that produced
17 wave heights of 12 to 16 feet at Half Moon Bay, Muir Beach,
18 Arena Cove, and Santa Cruz, California; the 1960 Chilean tsunami
19 that produced wave heights of 12 feet at Crescent City, California;
20 and the 1964 Alaskan tsunami that generated waves of more than
21 20 feet at Crescent City, California, causing \$7,500,000 in damage
22 and 11 deaths; and

23 WHEREAS, The March 2011 earthquake in Japan created a
24 tsunami that hit the coasts of California causing over \$36,000,000
25 in damage statewide to harbors located in the Counties of Del
26 Norte, Monterey, and Santa Cruz; and

27 WHEREAS, Earthquakes have resulted in loss of life, significant
28 property damage, and indirect costs; and

29 WHEREAS, Mitigating measures can save lives, reduce property
30 damage, and alleviate traffic and economic dislocation caused by
31 earthquakes; and

32 WHEREAS, The Federal Emergency Management Agency
33 estimates that for every dollar spent on earthquake mitigation, on
34 average, \$4 are saved if an earthquake occurs; and

35 WHEREAS, Education about the danger of earthquakes in
36 California and the value of mitigation is imperative to taking action
37 at the city, county, and state levels of government; and

38 WHEREAS, It is important for these levels of government to
39 work cooperatively with citizens, each other, the federal

1 government, and other nations to mitigate damage caused by
2 earthquakes; and

3 WHEREAS, It is important for utilities and private businesses
4 to understand the impacts of an earthquake and be properly
5 prepared and informed of potential risks; and

6 WHEREAS, It is vital that we examine the lessons learned from
7 recent earthquakes in Baja, as well as in the nations of Japan and
8 Chile, and that we share our knowledge with other states and
9 nations; now, therefore, be it

10 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
11 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby declares the month
12 of April 2012 as California Earthquake Preparedness Month, and
13 urges all Californians to engage in education, evaluation of seismic
14 hazards, mitigation, safety activities, and the exchange of
15 information related to earthquake preparedness and with other
16 states and nations during the month; and be it further

17 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
18 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.